



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Tulsa District

TULSA DISTRICT RECORD

November/December 2001
Vol. 24, No. 7

**Head 'em up!
Move 'em out!
See page 3.**

Commander's Column



COL Robert L. Suthard, Jr.
District Commander

Focus on communication

The resounding patriotism that has enveloped our nation is apparent in the district as demonstrated to me during my travels over the past two months. Flags flying, general good will to fellow Americans, resoluteness during the playing of "God Bless America," and more introspection as the "Star Spangled Banner" is played are all reflections of what has always been there, but not always as public – the determined American spirit.

Within the Tulsa District, the American spirit always shows brightly in the great work that you do for our fellow citizens, our national infrastructure (which greatly benefits our economy and national defense), facilities constructed for the military, and work done to rehabilitate and preserve our environment for future generations. Thirty of your fellow coworkers have gone a step further by volunteering to be a part of two teams that will support the U.S. CENTCOM with broad engineering expertise when and wherever needed. Over the past several weeks, they have been involved in training with our fellow districts and division headquarters, have gone through extensive physicals, numerous vaccinations, and have updated their wills, all so they can readily respond to the call of our nation on a moment's notice should they be called to deploy. Usually we think of our uniformed members of DoD when it comes to de-

"Our reputation is only as good as our last contact with the public."

ploying to support our nation, but the fact of the matter is that you, our civilian members of DoD, are an integral part both at home and overseas, and it makes me proud to serve with you here in the Tulsa District.

In general, the public support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is good. Since the 11th of September, however, support has increased as more of our fellow Americans realize what a great service is provided to them. It is incumbent upon us to provide a great service as stewards of the taxpayer dollar; as part of that, we must provide timely and clear communications with the public. In my previous column to you, I talked about getting our story out. This time, I need your help in another area of communications.

We have all experienced the frustration of trying to reach a business by phone, being put on hold, and finding ourselves in the twilight zone. You know what I mean by twilight zone – that zone where you are on hold forever coupled with the occasional computer voice that comes on to say your time is valuable. If you are lucky, a real person might speak to you before you die. Or, maybe it is the voice mail that no one responds to, or if they do, you aren't there. Or maybe you fax or write a letter or an e-mail, and no response comes. How frustrating can it be to communicate!?!?

I need everyone's help within the district to do away with this reputation being associated with the Corps. We must respond to inquiries on a daily basis, even if it is just a phone call back to the public saying, "I received your correspondence, and although I do not have the final answer for you today, I will have it by a particular date."

I know that you provide a great public service for our country. Our reputation is only as good as our last contact with the public. Please continue to help me in getting our story out and maintaining our credibility by providing timely responses to the public.

COL Suthard

In the spotlight

Jim Leach and Russ Wyckoff received the Silver Scoop Award for 2001

from the Oklahoma Flood Plain Managers Association for their

contributions to further the education about and the use of GIS in floodplain management. **Carolyn Schultz** received the Charles Don Ellison



The Spotlight

See Spotlight, page 12

Tulsa District Record

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District Commander

COL Robert L. Suthard, Jr.

Public Affairs Officer

W. Ross Adkins

Editor

Mary Beth Hudson

Production Assistance

Alicia Embrey

Fort Supply supplies water for cattle drive

Editor's Note: Ray Kunka at Fort Supply Lake reports that although the North Canadian River is usually meek and mild during June, a film company needed a raging river for a shoot. Coordination with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch, Operations Division, and Public Affairs Office took place, and the stage was set. The following is excerpted from the article, "Hitting the Trail – Film re-creates cattle drive for environmental theater," by Dawn Marks of the Daily Oklahoman's Enid Bureau. It ran on the front page of *The Sunday Oklahoman*, June 17.



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WOODWARD – As the river swells, the rider pushes forward to rein in the confused cattle. . . He flails in the water, almost drowning, until his fellow cowpokes pull him to safety.

Such was the scene created Thursday on the North Canadian River on the Chain Ranch near Woodward. Although it wasn't

real, the goal was to make it seem like the days on the cattle trail, said Chris Jefferies, executive director of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan.

A crew is working this summer in Woodward and Duncan to create a film for the center's \$5 million expansion that will include an environmental theater where visitors will be able to see, hear, smell, and feel the Chisholm Trail.

"Experience theater is the step beyond IMAX," he said. "We want to give the visitors a taste of what it was like on the old trail."

. . . Jefferies said organizers wanted to use locations in Oklahoma and tried to get as close to the Chisholm Trail as possible when shooting.

. . . The film required a lot of organization because of the weather, 400 longhorn cattle, and in the case of the river scene, permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release water from a dam upstream to swell the North Canadian.

Other shoots will include a roundup, bedding down time, and a stampede during an evening thunderstorm, with lightning effects on the cattle horns and in the theater.

Kraemer said visitors will feel their chairs shake during the stampede, and they'll smell bacon cooking. There may be some other surprises.

"The audience, without giving too much away, might get wet," he said.

. . . The museum is the only one of its kind in the country that focuses on cattle trails. Jefferies hopes to increase the number of visitors from 12,000 a year to more than 70,000.



Photo courtesy of Woodward News
Jaclyn Hackenberg, photographer

Cowboys reenacting a trail drive herd cattle across the North Canadian River. Water was held and then released from Fort Supply Lake to add authenticity to the film. The drive was filmed for experience theater at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan, Okla.

Folks learn to COPE with ROPES

**Russell Holeman, Assistant Chief
Engineering and Construction Division**

To remain competitive in today's business world, supervisors and employees must understand the concepts of teamwork, leadership, productivity, and creative problem solving. With that in mind, the Engineering and Construction Division, for the past four years, has sent selected groups of employees to various ROPES team-building courses.

This year, E&C chose the "Challenging Outdoor Personal Encounter" or COPE, a ROPES course operated by the Boy Scouts of America, Robson Outer Limits Center, Broken Arrow, Okla.



Russell Holeman secures Jan Holsomback with ropes for the zip line activity.



Bill Chartron and Scottie Fiehler cross the wild woozie while team members reach out to protect them from teetering off the edge.

The COPE course has two group levels – low and high – taught by a nationally certified director. The low course creates the need for group members to challenge old ways of thinking and acting. Group members faced with challenging problems are required to take risks, talk, and share responsibility. They develop effective people and problem-solving skills and learn the meaning of teamwork.

The high course activities may include any number of events requiring participants to work through their fears and anxieties and be able to function in an unknown environment. They may be climbing, swinging, and/or jumping in order to move forward to the next challenge.

The students discover they can push through fears, face risks, and achieve goals. Facing the courses' challenges encourages participants to be stronger, confident, and more willing to face life's challenges.

Ralph Hight, chief of E&C, said his first experience with ROPES was in 1997 with Southwestern Division office chiefs and the SWD deputy commander as part of a teaming initiative. "The experience

gave me the idea of scheduling our own E&C folks at the end of each fiscal year," he said. "We began by sending the supervisors, then the personnel who made up our significant teams, and those that had a lot of interaction with others." It soon became obvious to Hight that this was a very inexpensive way of training some of his people each year in organizational performance or group dynamics.

"The E&C attendees enjoyed the experience and, without fail, each of them has learned something about the strengths and weaknesses of themselves and those of their co-workers," said Hight. "The most important lesson that all participants seem to pick up on immediately is

that teamwork is the key to success, and trust is the key to teamwork."

Each event encourages participants to move out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves. "There was no peer pressure to force someone to do something he/she felt was too much for their capacity; however, there was the right amount of encouragement to get you to reach your potential," said Jeff Brewer, environmental engineer in the Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiological Waste Design Center.

"... teamwork is the key to success, and trust is the key to teamwork."

– Jeff Brewer



Left – Chili cook-off judge, David Manning, checks a chili sample for visual appeal while Judge Cynthia Wade writes her verdict.

Below – Joanne Morris pays Cathey Williams for her silent auction bargain while Pam Wellman watches.



Right – Maggie Fletcher pours pancake batter on the grill during the CFC pancake breakfast fundraiser.

Below – Karen Kennedy, Tracy White, Pam McCarn, Steve McCarn, and Sue Morris help themselves to pancakes and sausage with help from volunteer, Gina Arteche.



Combined Federal Campaign comes to close

Charities of the Combined Federal Campaign or CFC help support education, nutrition, life-giving, and disaster relief organizations.

Federal employees and military soldiers have raised millions of dollars through donations and fundraising events benefiting thousands of non-profit charities and organizations since 1961.

Whatever the crisis, wherever it happens, these

non-profit organizations supported by CFC contributions have reached out and helped those in need.

According to CFC Chairman John Tennery, Tulsa District donations totaled more than \$50,900 this year.

This year's fundraisers included a chili cook off/pie contest, silent auction, pancake breakfast, retiree barge ride, bake sale, and blue jean days.



Lt. Cols. Norton and Zeltner volunteered to flip pancakes during the CFC breakfast fundraiser.

Continuing Contracts

Keystone and Eufaula tainter gate rehabilitation continues into this fiscal year. Keystone is expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year, and Eufaula is not expected to be completed until February 2002.

Ice Damage Funded Projects

Design effort continues on projects that are funded for construction in FY 02. They are:

- ☛ New shower/toilet facilities at Canton, Tenkiller, and Eufaula.
- ☛ Installation of a new truss-roof system for the Oologah Project Office that currently has a leaking built-up roof.
- ☛ Rehab Eufaula Project Office – This work will consist of upgrading the electrical wiring within the project office, installing

Carole cares for customers

Ruth Fritz
Resource Management Office

Carole J. Freemyer, realty specialist, Management and Disposal Branch, Real Estate Division, was the third quarter Customer Care winner. Carole is a very public spirited employee, organizing the Corps Day picnic, managing the Corporate Challenge volleyball team, and helping organize other events in the Corporate Challenge this year.

She contributes to the success of the Tulsa District with the customer care she gives external customers. She always tries to accommodate the needs of customers who want a rapid reply to their questions and rapid processing of their requests for easements, licenses, and leases.



Carole Freemyer
Customer Care Employee

a truss-roof system over the leaking built up roof, adding a new addition for entrance into the project office, and realigning the entrance roof for better public access.

☛ More Roadwork – About \$3 million in roadwork will get underway next spring and summer at public use areas on Texoma, Eufaula, Robert S. Kerr, Waurika, and Fort Supply Lakes.

Hydropower Projects

Hydropower work for the upcoming fiscal year includes:

- ☛ Replace Robert S. Kerr excitation system. Project has been awarded and is underway at this time. The project is anticipated to be completed in FY 03.
- ☛ Broken Bow service breakers. No proposals were received on first attempt at advertising this job. Re-advertisement is currently underway.
- ☛ Replace excitation system at Webbers Falls and Keystone Powerhouses. This \$1.2 million project is in advertisement at this time and should get underway in February.
- ☛ Replace 13.8kV air circuit breakers at Tenkiller. Final design is underway and is anticipated to advertise in late December.

Dam Safety Assurance Reports

The Birch Dam Safety assurance report continues to progress for meeting the mid-March submittal date to headquarters.



Rick Smither

Empty Nest Syndrome – At Brooken Cove on Lake Eufaula this year, a nesting pair of bald eagles successfully raised two eaglets. The young eagles have been seen flying and learning to fish around the park. It was the second year the pair used the nest and, once again, they got some help from the rangers who cordoned off the area. Randy Shannon, park ranger, said that although some campers weren't able to camp at their favorite campsite, most of the public seemed to enjoy having the eagle pair in the area and seeing the young grow and learn to fly.

History sails the navigation system

Sheryl Townsend, Park Ranger

The *Nina*, a nearly exact replica of Christopher Columbus' ship that sailed with the *Pinta* and *Santa Maria* on his first voyage in 1492, was docked at Three Forks Landing, Muskogee, Okla., for a record number of days at a port. The ship was scheduled to be at the Port of Muskogee Oct. 19-Nov. 6, but was so popular that her stay was extended to Nov. 21.

She sailed from the Mississippi River to Pine Bluff, Ark., then sailed the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, passing through 15 locks to reach Muskogee.

Seeing an actual replica of one of Columbus' ships makes the discovery of the New World even more amazing. It's hard to believe it made it across the ocean. It looked more like a boat than a ship to me. The length on deck is 66 feet, the beam is 17.3 feet, and the sail is 30 by 40 feet.

The *Nina's* cargo was full of provisions such as ammunition, water, and food, including horses, cows, pigs, and chickens. The four-legged animals had to be suspended in slings so the rocking of the boat wouldn't break their legs. The crew of 27 had to live and sleep on the deck, enduring the conditions for two and a half months, until the New World was "discovered." Most of them probably still believed the world was flat.

The present-day *Nina* was built in Brazil in 1992 for the 500th anniversary of the famous voyage, using only hand tools and timbers from the local forest. Since then, she has visited more than 250 ports in the U.S. and has been toured by more than 2 million people. She sets sail for Mobile, Ala., next, and then will stay at the Grand Cayman Islands until May.

While in Muskogee, the "sailing museum" attracted more than 17,000 visitors, including many school children.



Courtesy press photo from www.thenina.com



Sheryl Townsend

Present and past met at Three Forks Landing on the McClellan Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System when the *Nina* navigated her way into the hearts of thousands of visitors.



Chad Ford

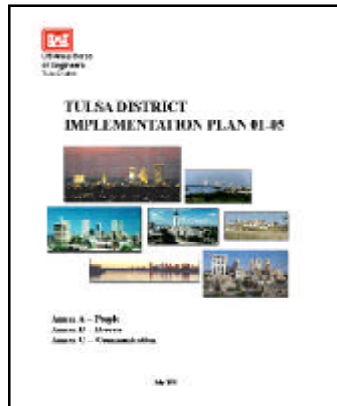
On board the *Nina* as it passes through Lock and Dam 16 after its extended berth at Three Forks Landing.

Implementation Plan is living document

Margaret Johanning

At the Senior Leaders' Conference in July, Tulsa District turned its focus to completing our strategic plan, Implementation Plan 01-05. The I-Plan's framework is provided by headquarters' strategic vision with its goals of People, Process, and Communication.

Further interpretation of the Corps Vision is provided in the Headquarters' Campaign Plan and the Southwestern Division Campaign Plan. Using these documents, the district team formulates the goals and objectives of the district plan.



The five-year plan includes specific goals and objectives to accomplish during FY02. As they are completed, the district moves closer to the Corps vision of being "The world's premier public engineering organization responding to our nation's needs in peace and war."

You can find a copy of the I-Plan in the CESWT Public Folders in Outlook, under Committees, Total Quality Self-Assessment Team. A copy of the SWD Campaign Plan is also located in the folder.

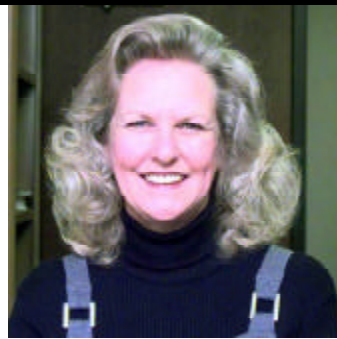
The I-Plan is a living document, so it is subject to revision whenever situations or direction warrant. Aspects of the plan are updated during Senior Leaders' Conferences. The next conference is scheduled for early December.

What's your 30-second commercial?



Tom Benenati
Park Ranger
Oologah Lake

"It's my responsibility to provide visitors to the project with a safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation experience, while also protecting the public's resources at the project. I'm also an ambassador for the Corps to the public, and take every opportunity to describe the benefits to our community of the district's many missions: recreation, flood control, water supply, navigation, military construction, and environmental restoration."



Maggie Hellwege
EEO Specialist
Equal Employment
Opportunity Office

"I assist the EEO manager in administering the district's EEO Program. This involves assisting in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating an effective Affirmative Employment Plan, and ensuring the equal employment laws of this nation are upheld for all employees – past, present, and future. Although our office is small in number, we are committed individuals who make every effort in support of the EEO program, our fellow district employees, and each other."



Tim Hunt
Chief
Logistics Management Office

"My commercial speaks to the internal customer – that is the support we provide to the Corps employees. With an annual average of 900 employees, I have 900 opportunities to satisfy some special customers. Logistics is a team comprised of good people who ask what the customer wants done – not what they will do for the customer. Our goal is just out of reach, but not out of sight. The greatest achievements are those that benefit others."



Kris Graves
Computer Specialist
Information Management
Office

"As a computer specialist in the Information Management Office, I am part of a team that provides computer network and application support, which ultimately helps all the employees in the Tulsa District accomplish their various missions. Computer/telecommunication support is one of our main commodities, and we strive to provide quick, effective technical service to our local and field office customers."

Tulsa District Record makes the grade . . .

The September/October issue of the *Tulsa District Record* was rated "E" for Excellence in Verbal and Visual Presentations. The rating was for the article "Corps Resources Tapped in Recovery Efforts" and was given by *Post-30-*, a publication of the Information Strategy Division, office of the chief of public affairs, Department of the Army.

According to *Post-30-*, the *TDR* coverage of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon "contained outstanding photos supplied by the U.S. Corps of Engineers."

Full-color versions of published *TDRs* can be viewed at <http://www.swt.usace.army.mil/library/tdr/tdrpage.htm>



. . . and gets new editor!

When the new year begins, a new editor takes over the reins of the *Tulsa District Record*. As the publication enters its 25th year, Alicia Embrey assumes editorial responsibilities.

Embrey joined the Tulsa District Public Affairs Office staff in October. She came to Tulsa from Grafenwoehr, Germany, where she was a PA specialist for the 100th Area Support Group/7th Army Training Command. She brings experience in photography and graphics to the task as well as writing and editing expertise.

"I think the *TDR* will definitely benefit from Alicia's enthusiasm and talent," said Mary Beth Hudson, current editor, who plans to continue to do some writing for the publication. "The *TDR's* been such a big part of my life for so long that I don't think I can go cold turkey," she said, flipping her calendar to April.

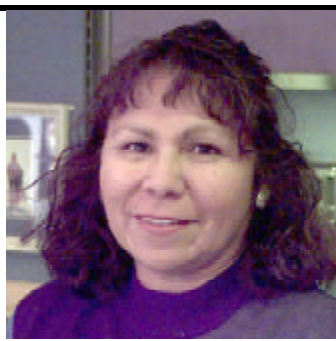
As always, employees are encouraged to contribute to the *TDR*. Embrey can be reached at 918-669-7366.

What's your 30-second commercial?



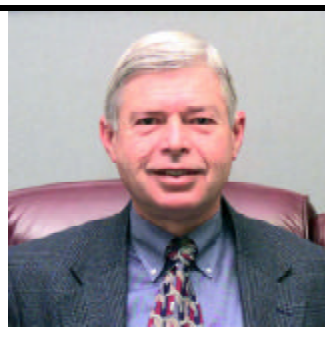
Susan Satterfield
Co-op Student
Public Affairs Office

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a federal organization with a broad spectrum of tasks that are broken down into civil, military, and environmental. I provide assistance to the Corps both internally and externally. Internally, I assist other offices in strategic planning and producing information for internal or public use. Externally, I act as a liaison between the Corps and an individual or an organization."



Sue Morris
Admin Support Assistant
Logistics Management Office

"As an administrative support assistant in the Logistics Management Office, I am part of a team that provides a variety of support functions such as property, vehicles, travel, special services, and facility management to the district employees. My goal is to ensure all that I interact with receive prompt, accurate, and – above all – courteous service."



John Roberts
Deputy District Engineer
for Program Management

"I lead the project management business process, delivering quality products and services, on time and within budget in support of our nation. We benefit the citizens of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas by providing flood control, navigation, hydro-power, water supply, environmental stewardship, and recreation. We provide engineering services to six military installations and conduct environmental restoration throughout the southwest."



Patricia Gilbert
Park Ranger
Skiatook and Birch Lakes

"As a park ranger, my primary duties consist of resource management and implementing the visitor assistance program while overseeing the recreation fee program. What I like most about my job is customer service and protecting the beauty of the natural resources of Skiatook and Birch Lakes. I work with a great family of co-workers, and I am proud to say that I belong to such a wonderful organization called the United States Army Corps of Engineers."

First they piled up brush, then fish, then prizes

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from an article in the Oct. 25 edition of "The Kansas City Star" by Brent Frazee entitled "Outdoor notes: Volunteering pays off for crappie champs."

Tim Martin and Chapman Spangler will tell you that it pays to do volunteer work.

Today, Martin and Spangler are national champions on the pro crappie-fishing circuit. And it wouldn't have been possible, they say, if it hadn't been for some time they spent on a work crew this summer at Lake Oologah in Oklahoma, the site of the national championship tournament.

The Kansas City-area fishermen volunteered to take part in a Corps of Engineers work day in September, helping put brush in the lake.

They returned to those fish attractors Oct. 12-13 when they competed in the North American Crappie Association National Championship, hoping the crappies had moved in to the new cover. And sure enough, they had.

Martin of Olathe and Spangler of Clinton, Mo., landed 20 fish weighing 20.25 pounds out of that brush in two days – enough to take their first national championship and \$10,000.

"Some of the fish attractors we put in were perfect for this time of year – in 12 to 15 feet of water, right on a ledge," Martin said. We had marked where they were on our GPS so that we could find them again, then we fished them in the tournament.

"We caught every one of our fish there."

... Spangler and Martin surpassed their nearest competitors ... by 2 pounds in the final standings.

Freedom of Information information



by Pam Wellman, Office of Counsel

The 1966 Freedom of Information Act was originally intended to provide a method of access by the public to information regarding the decision-making processes of the federal government. For a number of years, it was referred to as the "Government in the Sunshine Act."

Congress, the federal courts, and parts of the executive office of the president are not subject to the FOIA, but every federal agency is. **For a request to be processed in accordance with FOIA in the Tulsa District, it must:**

- be in writing and sent to the attention of Office of Counsel. The request can be by fax at 918-669-7576.

- be as specific as possible and include any identifiers. (If we cannot determine what is being requested from the letter, we cannot process the request.) If the requested records are not exempt from release under the FOIA, we will provide them, but only what is requested.

- contain a statement that the requester is willing to pay the costs to process the request. *If the statement is not there, we are not required to process the request.* If the statement is missing, the requester is notified in writing that the request will not be processed until the required statement is received. The majority of FOIA requests do not result in any processing fees being charged to the requester; however, the statement still must be made in the request whether there will be fees assessed or not. Any fees amounting to less than \$15 are automatically waived.

If anyone receives a request for records or a letter that actually mentions the FOIA, it should be forwarded to Office of Counsel. The FOIA provides a time limitation of 20 working days to process a request.

If there are records that are exempt from release, further coordination is required with counsel at Southwestern Division. The division counsel is the Initial Denial Authority for denials made under FOIA exemptions. If we do not have the requested records, the district counsel is the IDA.

FOIA is a team effort for all of us. We coordinate with and rely heavily on the offices that have records to provide the necessary copies and also advise us if there are records that are sensitive or may be exempt under the FOIA or background information on the request. Office of Counsel is very appreciative of the valuable support provided by all of the divisions and separate offices in the processing of FOIA requests over the years.

Following Sept. 11, the attorney general issued new guidance which allows agencies to be more restrictive in the application of the FOIA. **All requests for information concerning technical information related to dams or other structures should be forwarded to Office of Counsel.** There is also additional guidance regarding requests made for government projects, facilities, personnel, or operations.

Tulsa District FOIA officers are Hank Iarrusso (ext. 7545) and Pam Wellman (ext. 7596). The Department of Justice has an excellent website at <http://www.usdoj.gov/foia/> containing information and valuable links.

King parade approaching

The Black Employee Program Committee invites you to be a part of Tulsa District's participation in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade to be held Jan. 21, 2002.

The theme will be "Reflecting on the Past – Visualizing the Future." The parade will begin at 11 a.m. at Pine and Cincinnati in Tulsa.

Let's represent the district well! If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please call Lisa Samilton at 669-7154 or Joyce Yarbrough at 669-7223.



Former employees inducted into gallery

William P. Johnson Jr. and Mark R. King, former Tulsa District employees, were recently inducted into the Southwestern Division's Gallery of Distinguished Employees in Dallas by Brig. Gen. David F. Melcher, commander. The gallery honors those who have exemplified exceptional professional competence and stature during their careers.

Johnson went to work for Tulsa District in 1957 as a civil engineer in the Plan Formulation Section of the Engineering Division. He spent eight years in the Tulsa District, including a tour of duty as a first lieutenant with the U.S. Army Reserve, Corps of Engineers, in France.

He retired from SWD in April 1998 after 41 years of service.



Bill Johnson



Mark King

King began work for Tulsa District in 1960 at Altus in the Corps of Engineers Ballistic Missile Construction Office. He then worked in the Tulsa District Office for 10 years. King retired in December 1989 as SWD's chief of Recreation Resources and Regulatory Branch.

Southwestern Division Human Resources Offices

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

Tulsa Team Members

Jerry Sosebee, Director	817-978-2200
Georgeanna Wilson, Sup.	817-978-4303

Staffing

Jeff Hair	817-978-4362
Yolanda Faggins	817-978-4301

Labor/Management Employee Relations

Duane Braxton	817-978-4313
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Position Management/Classification

Jorge Clavell	817-978-4041
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Would you know if someone were drowning?

Editor's note: The following article was amended and submitted by Johnie Dudley, park ranger, Canton Lake. It was originally written by Cliff Hays, retiree, which goes to show that good information never goes out of date. Thanks to Dawn Oliphant for tracking down the original author.

What does a drowning person look like? Most of us think we can describe a drowning person – he splashes a lot, yells for help, and bobs up and down a few times before going under for good. This is only partly right.

Victims generally do not cry out – they are too busy trying to breathe. Toward the end, most drowning people lapse into involuntary motions such as pushing down on the water with arms outstretched; bobbing to the surface with mouth open, but making no sound, head tipped back to maximize air intake. Also, near-drowning victims may not be able to see, so a rescuer or rescue device must touch them.

Approximately 6,000 people drown annually in the United States. Among people up to age 44, it is the country's second leading cause of accidental death. It is the leading cause of death in children less than four years old.

Why do people drown? Investigations, supported by analysis of large numbers of in-water deaths, indicate that many drownings are related to at least one of three general causes: inability to swim, alcohol, and cold water.

Most victims did not mean to go into the water – they are surprised to find themselves suddenly "in the drink." Statistics on alcohol and drowning indicate that one-half or more of those who drown are legally intoxicated. When a drunken nonswimmer falls into the water, he typically kills himself rather rapidly. Swimming requires coordination and alertness; an inebriated person in the water probably lacks both.

Swimmers who suddenly find themselves in the water are advised to do nothing. Most swimmers can back-float with little or no effort, especially if they are wearing clothing. Weird as it may seem, the more clothing a person wears, the better he floats. In water, most clothing traps in air, thereby supporting and insulating. Lastly, and like a broken record, LEARN TO SWIM! After all, this is the basic skill necessary for both survival and enjoyment in the water.

Practice water safety so you, your friends, and your family can live to enjoy many more summers.

Eufaula Electrifies

Rick Smither
Park Ranger, Eufaula Lake

Yes, it truly is the electronic age, as evidenced by the new message display at Eufaula Lake's Porum Landing Park. The electronic display is a prototype in a pilot program to improve dissemination of information. If the program is successful, displays may be added at all gated parks. The pilot program is believed to be a first in the Tulsa District and possibly for the Corps nationwide.

Installation of the display was a team effort by Eufaula personnel. Johnny Bray of the powerhouse fabricated the mounting framework and a locking device to secure the unit to the framework. Roger Burns and Junior Rea of the maintenance staff permanently mounted the framework to the gate attendant building. Joe Rea, civil engineering technician, coordinated installation of the electrical service.

Each year, the amount of information needed to be communicated to visitors increases. As the number of conventional signs increase, visitors become inundated with information overload.



Gate attendants Pat and Henry White stand beside the new electronic message display at the park's entrance.

This is commonly referred to as sign pollution. Once this point of saturation is reached, visitors tend to pick out one or two prominent signs to read and ignore the rest. The electronic message display will disseminate the growing amount of information and negate the need for new signs.

Messages on the display are easily changed. We plan to use the board to display warnings and other information concerning lake conditions, lake elevations, and timely information such as fireworks and fire bans.

For more information, contact Rick Smither of the Eufaula ranger staff at 918-799-5843 or by e-mail at Rick.Smither@swt03.usace.army.mil

NOTICE – Do not process, store, or transmit classified information on nonsecure telecommunications systems. Official Department of Defense telecommunications systems – including telephones, facsimile machines, computer networks, and modems – are subject to monitoring for telecommunications security purposes at all times. Use of official DoD telecommunications systems constitutes consent to telecommunications security monitoring.



At the October drive, 47 units were collected and there were two first-time donors.

Drives scheduled

January 25, 2002

From the Security Office

Be aware of your surroundings and report anything suspicious to the Security and Law Enforcement Office.

Be alert to strangers who are on government property for no apparent reason; attempt to provide a complete description of the person and/or vehicle.

... Spotlight

from page 2

Award which is the highest award given by OFMA for service to them, and Joe Remondini received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jim Martell presented a paper at a joint national conference of the Association of Engineering Geologists and the American Institute of Professional Geologists in St. Louis, Mo., on "Groundwater Extraction in Low Transmissive Aquifers for Containment and Remediation of Contaminated Groundwater at Vance Air Force Base, Okla." The abstract of the presentation was published in the July 2001 edition of *Association of Engineering Geologists News*.

Congratulations to all our volunteers who yearly donate thousands of hours to help us accomplish our mission. At Lake Texoma, about 80 volunteers worked 6,000 hours during FY01. They were recognized at a volunteer banquet. Canton Lake employees held their annual volunteer dinner to recognize 57 volunteers who donated 5,815 hours; the total dollar value of their efforts is estimated at \$69,812. Volunteers at Lake Eufaula donated more than 25,000 hours of service last year.

Thanks to the many volunteers who demonstrated our flood plain management model at the Tulsa State Fair.

The model is a valuable tool to educate individuals and communities about flood

plain use, wetland preservation, and flood mitigation programs available from local flood plain administrators, FEMA, and the Corps.

Gary Reasnor, director of engineering and public works at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, recently thanked **Dan Birnbaum** for the great job he's doing at McAlester and for the positive relationship he has built.



The Spotlight

The Spotlight

See Spotlight, page 13

Personnel Notes

Information provided by Linda McKay, Human Resources Office.

Aug.-Sept. Hello

Tammy Frieze, OD, Marion Area Office
 Gary Smart, PER, Environmental Analysis & Compliance Branch
 Clayton Cunningham, OD, Fort Gibson Powerplant
 Constance Sheppard, OD, Big Hill Lake Office
 Jeffrey Miller, OD, Technical Support Branch
 Gary Chambers, OD, R.S. Kerr Lock & Dam 14-18
 Laura Bryant, OD, Eufaula Area Office
 Gary Brum, E&C, Central Okla. Area Office
 Courtney Parvin, OD, Keystone Area Office
 Mary Blackburn, PER, Regulatory Branch

Goodbye

Paul Storm
 Claudine Macom
 Stephanie Yarbrough
 Heather Lawson
 Brent Hinds
 Daniel Foyil
 Blake Mahar
 Jarrett Keim
 Clifton Randolph
 Jessica Wright
 Kenneth Copeland
 David Wallace
 Derhonda Osmond
 Aaron Dewlen
 Tracy Dick
 Keith Bottoms
 Glen Nicholson
 Patrick Sanders
 James Ramsey
 David Wallace

Promotions

Susan Wimbish, RMO, Budget & Manpower Branch
 Willie Grimes Jr., IMO
 Margaret Newcomb, IMO
 Deborah Reid, IMO
 Marie Wegner, PER, Planning Branch
 Lorene Poole, E&C, Design Branch
 Mary S. Ross, OD, Eufaula Area Office

Matthew Jones, OD, Robert S. Kerr Area Office
 Kenneth Todd, OD, Robert S. Kerr Area Office
 Brian Echols, OD, Fort Gibson Powerhouse
 Rocky Walker, OD, Fort Gibson Powerhouse
 Hank Farley, OD, Broken Bow Powerhouse
 Wesley Tyler, OD, Keystone Area Office
 Anthony Condi, OD, Webbers Falls Lake Office
 Ronald Henry, OD, Robert S. Kerr Area Office
 Timothy Proctor, OD, Robert S. Kerr Area Office
 Susan Haslett, PER, Planning Branch
 Dorothy Danley, CT, Civil Contracts Branch
 Charles Joyce, E&C, HTRW Design Center
 Susan Killgore, CT
 Larry Harp, OD, Electrical/Mechanical Maintenance Support

October

Hello

Jeanette Sarracino, EC, Quality Assurance Branch
 Danielle Sainer, OD, Technical Support Branch
 Alicia Embrey, Public Affairs Office
 Dana Waller, EC, Quality Assurance Branch

Goodbye

Robert Wilson, PPMD
 Jimmy Jackson, OD

Promotions

David Hayes, SO
 Douglas Lily, PER, Planning Branch
 Adam Crisp, EC, HTRW Design Center
 Karen Kennedy, RE, Management & Disposal Branch
 Edward Parisotto, OD, Eufaula Project Office
 Rita Anderson, OD, Keystone Project Office
 Thomas Quigley, OD, Texoma Project Office

. . . Spotlight

from page 12

The following volunteers helped make this year's Volksmarch and picnic a huge success: **Charlotte Stockwell, Jackie Goranson, Albert Candelaria, Jane Noble, Laura Redemann, Mike Redemann, Shirley Rolison, Ruth Fritz, Dorothy Griffin,**

Mary Blackburn, Brenda Sutterfield, Richard Murdock, Linda Phillips, Nikki Carr, Carol McConnell, Susan Wimbish,

Karen White, Craig Wright, LeViene Hearne-Fleming, Melonie Stahlman, Linda Robinson, Nita Williams, Marie Buster, Cheri Ferguson, Christine Roye, Brenda Knight, Felicia Cummings, Donna Dillard, Pam Alambar, Tim Hunt, Becky Butterfield, and Melissa George. A special thanks to those who purchased tickets and joined the Volksmarch.

David Hays performed a comprehensive radiological survey at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The in-house survey saved more than \$120,000 for the Air Force. This effort is expected to result in additional USAF work for the district.

Congratulations to the following graduates of Leadership Development Class 5: **Ron Crank, Andy Obrochta, Ed Parisotto, Bill Powers, Lori Thomas, Dorinda Young, and Rick Gardner.**



The Spotlight

The Spotlight

Top Gun misses mark

**Aimee Jordan, Park Ranger
Eufaula Lake**

The FBI, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant security, and the McAlester Police Department were on high alert Sept. 26, responding to an aircraft flying low over the ammunition plant.

The pilot of a Beechcraft carrying actor Tom Cruise apparently mistook a large cement pad lined with lights for a landing strip. The pad is used for loading and unloading at the plant. Witnesses say the aircraft approached the pad; then, the pilot must have realized the mistake, so took to the air again, headed for its intended destination, McAlester Regional Airport.

Cruise was in Oklahoma to pay a visit to the Narconon Arrowhead facility. The facility, located on Lake Eufaula, is a sublease of Arrowhead State Park through the Department of Tourism. Narconon (meaning "no drugs") is a drug rehabilitation and drug education program that uses the teaching and technology of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of the Church of Scientology. Narconon is a separate program, independent of the church, but greatly supported by Scientologists around the world.

Narconon President Michael Anzalone said that Cruise visited the facility to see Arrowhead and the expansion and to lend support.

Following a strict lock-down of the ammunition plant during which no one could enter or leave, the FBI contacted Narconon. The pilot was sent back to speak with them, and all issues were resolved.



Publicity Photo

Tom Cruise

To Tom Heathcock, park ranger, Fort Gibson Lake, from gate attendants Jim and Barbara Frost:

We will be unable to complete our contract next year. We do wish to thank you and your team, and we still feel the Corps, the lake, the park and all are one of the best things about this country.

From Robert J. Conner, S.E.S. deputy at Tinker Air Force Base to Programs and Project Management Division responding to Report on Contract Durations:

Your initiative and efforts in managing the length of construction are very much appreciated. Those efforts are evident by the construction period of the primary runway repair project. Similar shortened construction times make it possible for our workforce to have use of updated and modern facilities quicker, improving the productiveness and morale of our workforce.

Again, let me say thank you to you and your team for addressing our needs in this area of concern.

From the Mailbox



To David Manning, chief, Regulatory Branch, PER Division, from John Gill, Nordic Engineering, regarding Michael Ware:

... I would like you to know how much I have enjoyed working with Mr. Ware on my project here in Oklahoma City. His knowledge and understanding of the engineering that will have to be done impressed my engineers.

I have saved many months of work as well as money due to Mr. Ware's abilities to get things done and his availability when I needed him.

Mr. Ware is a wonderful person to know and to work with. I look forward to doing business with the Corps of Engineers and Mr. Ware again.

To Bruce Padgham, Marion Area Office, from Lester Kaiser, fire chief, Marion County Fire District #5:

This letter is to inform you of the excellent class the Ranger Neal Whitaker presented at the Marion Reservoir . . .

He coordinated with surrounding agencies who assisted him with equipment and personnel and all were very well versed in the different disciplines of water rescue. This was a much needed class and Ranger Whitaker took the challenge to heart and presented a very informative and interesting course. . .

With the information presented, those in attendance will be better prepared to assist someone in a water-related emergency instead of becoming a victim themselves.

It allowed the agencies that may be called to work together during a water-related emergency the opportunity to train together, become familiar with equipment that would be used, and a chance to work with other departments, as may be the case in a real emergency. . .

Youth hunt held



Kyle Decker, Stillwell, Okla., poses with his father and his 95-pound doe taken during Fort Gibson's annual youth hunt.

On Oct. 20, park rangers Darwin McClellan and Tom Heathcock held Fort Gibson's annual youth deer hunt. Ten hunters, each accompanied by an adult, enjoyed a great day of hunting and camaraderie.

The enthusiastic participants headed out, muzzleloaders in hand, to the old Boy Scout Area on Fort Gibson Lake where most of the participants witnessed deer during the hunt. Three lucky hunters harvested a deer. Kyle Decker of Stillwell claimed the largest with a 95-pound doe.

Leaders named

The Leadership Development Program Committee is pleased to announce the participants selected for the sixth Tulsa District LDP class. They are Marc Chester, Billy Williams, Danna Walker, and Don Underwood, Operations Division; Michael Love and Rick Gardner, Real Estate Division; Michael Southern, Jan Holsomback, Dawn Knight, and Marshall Boyken, Engineering and Construction Division; Jane Noble, Resource Management Office; and Louis Vogele, Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division.

They have begun their program by participating in the Dale Carnegie Course and the personal development portion of their requirements. This class will run through June/July 2002.



Condolences

To Gloria Lowe, Resource Management Office, on the tragic death of her 21-year-old daughter Kimberly Sept. 15.

We recently received word that James Campbell, 1988 retiree, passed away Dec. 14, 2000, while working outside during an ice storm. He started with the Tulsa District at Keystone Project and moved to the Budget and Finance Branch.

Nelson Hoss, retiree, died Sept. 23.

Johnnie Mathias passed away Oct. 22. He was father of Susan Killgore, Contracting Division, and Pam Wellman, Office of Counsel.

Norman Keath, retiree, passed away Nov. 3. He was the father of James Keath, wage leader, Fall River Lake Office. He worked from 1966 to 1985 at Hulah and Elk City Lakes.

Thomas "Dale" Drennan, retiree, died Oct. 28.

Retiree Roundup

Editor's Note: Public Affairs Office conducted a mailing list update and asked retirees to tell us about their current activities or share memories of their time with the district. Here are some of their responses:

Hi to all former and current Corps' employees! I retired almost six years ago, and I have loved every minute of it. To those of you who know me well, you know that I am a very busy person. For the past 2 1/2 years I have been raising a grandson. He is now 3 1/2 years old and is a big ball of energy.

I have had several different businesses in the past few years. I have finally found one that I think I will hang onto. My sister-in-law and I have a rubber stamp and engraving shop. A lot of you already know about my business because of my daughter, Tammy Moreno, in Contracting, who is one of my best sales representatives. We built a shop right at our home so I can work night and day if needed (yea, right!). The name of my business is A-Z Rubber Stamp and Engraving Warehouse, and we are in the Sperry phonebook.

Although I love being retired, I do miss the Corps' people. I am lucky because Tammy keeps me informed of all the news. I love reading the *Tulsa District Record*. Keep it coming.

*Judy Schumacher (Mann at retirement)
Sperry, Okla.*

Retiree profile

George James of Sherman, Texas, worked for the Corps from 1957 until 1978. He retired as operations and maintenance foreman at Lake Texoma.



George James

James has been traveling, camping, dancing, fishing, doing wood and yard work, and especially enjoying his grandkids and great-grandkids since retirement. He stated that the Corps has done a complete turn-around for the better since he retired.

James' most memorable moments were when the lake went over the spillway in 1957 and when the trainer plane from the old Perrin Field crashed into Lake Texoma.

He lost his wife, Virginia, in 1996 after 53 years of marriage.

He married Ann Boggs from Bonham, Texas, and they are enjoying their winters in the valley and summers in Questa, N.M., fishing.

This spring he made 100 blue bird houses for the Corps at Lake Texoma. He thoroughly enjoys the Corps' news and looks forward to each copy so he can keep up with everyone.



You're Invited
Holiday Gathering
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2:00
Second Floor Conference Room

Flash from the Past



In December 1958, the Civil Projects Development Branch posed for a group photo. Members are listed below.

First row – W. G. George, E. R. Thompson, F. J. Conder, and Z. P. Durham.

Second row – A. L. Varner, H. R. Barbee, P. M. Spurlock, E. E. Hudson, H F. Harris, J. W. Brown, G. D. Jet, Gene Lasley, K. L. Dodson, C. R. Holcomb, J. H Hancock, and P. L. Lowe.

Third row – G. C. Kelley, D. E. Pierce, Bernadine Jones, Regina White, B. A. Dampier, A.. S. Barnes, A. L. Jacobson, R. L. Burch, L. B. Bobeck, E. B. Shelton, J. W. Nichols, and O. W. Keener.

Fourth row – H. K. Shane, R. W. Barlow, C. R. Arnold, D. M. Merrill, O. E. Constant, J. D. Watson, Marvin Bateman, B. L. Neafus, C. E. Smith, D. P. Melton, L. E. Miles, W. T. Moore, and A. C. Winters.

Fifth row – S. W. Bowen, R. E. Oglevie, F. W. Shimkus, W. J. Bowman, C. O. Clark, V. M. Thornton, E. H. Henry, G. M. Bowman, L. A. Will, D. A. Camp, and W. R. Stanton.

Sixth row – J. C. Dissley, C. W. Herrington, A. H. Godwin, L. E. Triggs, L. N. Snider, T. J. Watson, A. E. Coldwell, H. W. Roberts, D. L. Chapman, J. E. Muehlberg, D. R. Henderson, B. S. Eichert, W. P. Cambron, K. K. Kerr, H. S. Nakashima, and R. H. Cartmill.